

Impact of the Tsunami

Written by Paul Belmudes
Saturday, 19 March 2011 05:33

Camping and Fishing Tandem Style



It's been one week since the earthquake that rocked Japan. My thoughts and prayers go out to people of this country for a speedy recovery. The after affects of the tsunami has had some impacts on the Hawaiian Islands in many ways.

Last week I had the opportunity to be camping and fishing with my dear friend Chris Finch at Manuka Bay on the Big Island. Chris was the one who got me interested in kayak fishing in 2006 and it has been at least one year since I have been on the water with him. As for Manuka Bay... it's on the southwest side of the Big Island and you need a four wheel drive to cross a lava rock road several miles that takes at least one hour and twenty minutes to get there gingerly with kayak on top that's packed for a camping adventure. What a magnificent kayak fishing location Manuka Bay is. It's been two years since we last camped there and we knew this remote area was going to be quiet... a place to get away from the pressures of being in the timeshare sales and marketing industry for Chris and I. The last time we camped there, it had

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no cell phone coverage and we were expecting our cell phones to be quiet for three days. We arrived Wednesday and we were the only ones in the area except for a luxury dive boat anchored in the bay. We had the whole beach to ourselves and it was the going to be our first day of the participating in the Aquahunters Makhiki tournament for 2011. Last year if you followed my blog, I finished in sixth place in this dynamic island wide tournament. With the competition tough this year, I thought it would be a fun way to enter the tournament as a tandem team with Chris. We chose "I'a Palua" as our team name which means "two fish."



After setting up camp, one of the cell phones started to ring. We looked down the shore and noticed a cell phone tower two mile south of us. Well at least we knew that we could use our cell phones and our Navionics program on the iPhone for the following day. On Wednesday night, we enjoyed the camp taking it all in which made it really easy to sleep through the night. We awoke to a peaceful sunrise and enjoyed a fantastic breakfast with coffee. Chris did the cooking as I set up the Hobie Oasis for her first maiden voyage as a tandem kayak. It was setup with six rods on board giving a 14 foot span from pole to pole on the outside lines for trolling. Chris was going to maintain those lines and I was going to maintain the two inside lines. We launched the

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bay and I immediately took a strike that slashed my bait in half within the first five minutes when we were 30 fathoms out in deep water. We were very excited and knew this was going to be very special day for us. Not more than 30 minutes later, Chris took a solid strike and brought in a kaku (barracuda) which we photographed and then released it. Thirty minutes later, Chris took another strike and low and behold... another barracuda that was CNR'd.



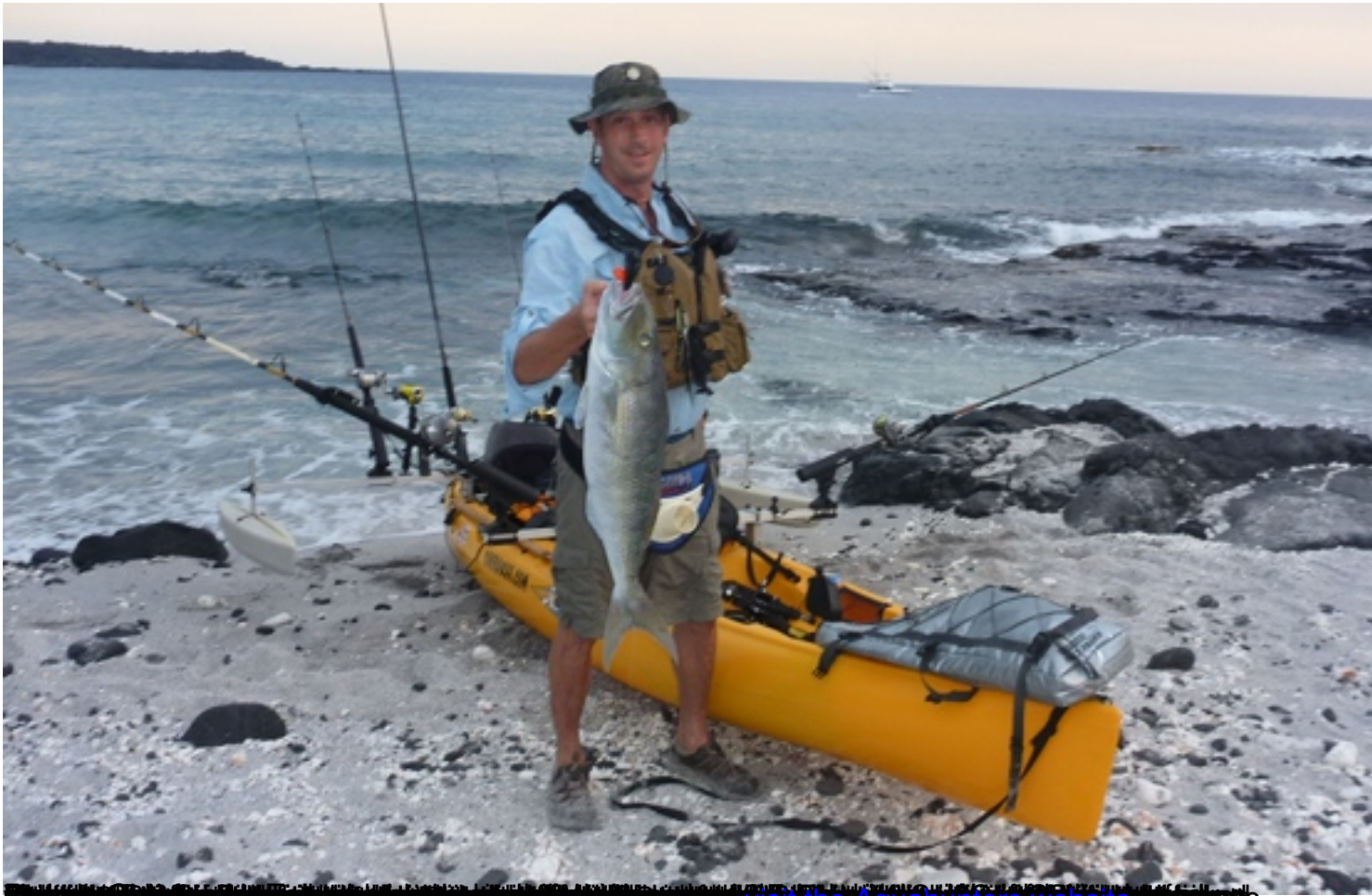
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